

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 5, 2004. Claims 1 to 27 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 to 27 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,661,350 (Munetomo) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,134,568 (Tonkin). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a preview image display method for displaying a print preview image, the preview image display locates in a print control apparatus having a bookbinding print function for printing a book formed by stacking multiple bookbinding units composed of a designated number of physical pages, on which logical pages are rendered, folded once. The preview image display method includes a converting step of converting a print command from an application into intermediate codes in units of logic pages, a judging step of judging whether the bookbinding print is selected or not, a setting step of setting an output order, which is a layout order of logical pages on physical pages, of the intermediate codes converted in the converting step when it is judged that bookbinding print is selected in the judging step and printing data is created, an output step of outputting the intermediate codes converted in the converting step based on the output order set in the setting step, and a display step of displaying intermediate codes converted in the converting step based on the display order of logical pages, that is an order of turning pages after binding the physical pages, as a preview image on a screen when it is judged that bookbinding print is selected in the judging step and the print preview image is displayed. The output order of the intermediate codes set in said setting step differs from the display order of logical pages, that

is an order of turning physical pages after bookbinding, for print preview. In this way, the present invention provides a print preview of a document for which bookbinding setting is selected in the same order as a printed material when folded and bound.

Therefore, the present invention includes displaying a print preview image having the same layout as a print result to be printed. According to this feature, the output order of the intermediate codes for printing is different from the order of displaying the intermediate codes for a print review when the bookbinding setting is set for a document. If the intermediate codes are displayed in a preview mode in the same order as printing, a user of the preview function cannot see the logical pages in the order of flipping pages of the printed matter according to bookbinding setting. Therefore, the present invention includes the feature of “setting step of setting an output order, which is a layout order of logical pages on physical pages, of the intermediate codes converted in said converting step when it is judged that bookbinding print is selected in said judging step and printing data is created” to solve this problem. By this setting step, the claimed invention can display the preview image of a document in the same order as the printed matter when the bookbinding setting is set for the document.

In contrast, Munetomo discloses a print processing apparatus having a print setting screen associated with the application program and a printer setting screen associated with a printer driver to be displayed simultaneously, and extracts an overlapping item from setting items associated with each screen, thereby preventing the setting contents from overlapping with each other. (See Munetomo, Column 1, Lines 55 to 65).

Tonkin discloses a system which enables a user to preview a document by providing a user interface and inputting information specifying an arrangement of components to create the document. The components include printed pages, tab pages, blank pages, a front

cover, a back cover and a binding. Digital images of the components are obtained and an image of the document is generated by combining the digital images of the components. The image of the document is displayed to inform a user of a printed result. (See Tonkin, Abstract).

Therefore, neither Munetomo nor Tonkin disclose nor suggest a “setting step of setting an output order, which is a layout order of logical pages on physical pages, of the intermediate codes converted in said converting step when it is judged that bookbinding print is selected in said judging step and printing data is created.” The reason that neither Munetomo nor Tonkin disclose Applicants’ “setting step” is that neither Munetomo nor Tonkin disclose displaying print preview images of a document for which a bookbinding setting is selected as the systems disclosed by Munetomo and Tonkin do not have a bookbinding print function for printing a book composed of a designated number of physical pages, on which logical pages are rendered as if folded once. Accordingly, Munetomo and Tonkin only disclose displaying print preview images in an order of output data to be printed. As neither Munetomo nor Tonkin discloses Applicants’ print preview method as claimed in Claim 1, Applicants’ respectfully submit that Claim 1 is allowable and request same.

Claims 9 and 17 are apparatus and computer program storage medium claims, respectively, corresponding to method Claim 1. Therefore, the discussion from above in regard to Claim 1 applies equally to Claims 9 and 17. Therefore, Applicants’ respectfully submit that Claims 9 and 17 are allowable for at least the same reasons.

New independent Claim 25 is directed to a preview image display method for displaying a print preview image. The preview image display locates in a print control apparatus having a bookbinding print function for printing a book formed by stacking multiple bookbinding units composed of a designated number of physical pages on which logical pages are rendered,

folded once. The preview image display method includes a converting step of converting a print command from an application to intermediate codes in units of logical pages, a judging step of judging whether the bookbinding print is selected or not, and a displaying step of displaying, inconsecutive logical pages, which should be laid out at different physical pages, based on the display order of logical pages, that is an order of turning physical pages after bookbinding, as a preview image on a screen when it is judged that bookbinding print is selected in the judging step.

Therefore, the present invention defined in new independent Claim 25 is a method of displaying a print preview image of a document for which bookbinding setting is selected. The method includes “displaying inconsecutive logical pages, which should be laid out at different physical pages, based on the display order of logical pages, that is an order of turning physical pages after bookbinding, as a preview image on a screen when it is judged that bookbinding print is selected” to display logical pages in the order of turning the physical page as folded and bound according to a bookbinding printing setting.

In contrast, neither Munetomo nor Tonkin teaches “displaying inconsecutive logical pages, which should be laid out at different physical pages, based on the display order of logical pages, that is an order of turning physical pages after bookbinding, as preview image on a screen when it is judged that bookbinding print is selected.” This is because neither Munetomo nor Tonkin disclose displays of print preview images of a document for which a bookbinding setting is selected as neither disclosed system has a bookbinding print function for printing a book composed of a designated number of physical pages, on which logical pages are rendered, as if folded once. As neither Munetomo nor Tonkin discloses Applicants’ print preview method as

claimed in Claim 25, Applicants' respectfully submit that Claim 25 is allowable and request same.

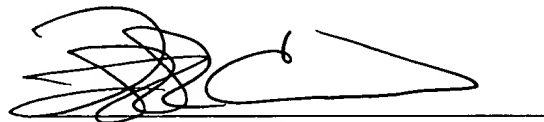
Claims 26 and 27 are apparatus and computer program storage medium claims, respectively, corresponding to method Claim 25. Therefore, the discussion from above in regard to Claim 25 applies equally to Claims 26 and 27. Therefore, Applicants' respectfully submit that Claims 26 and 27 are allowable for at least the same reasons.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Frank L. Cire', written over a horizontal line.

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